



Montgomery Flight - 1904

Moffett Field - 1933

China Clipper - 1936

Hiller XH-44 - 1944

NASA Ames Research Center -- 1981

Northern Wings

Volume 6 No. 8

The Aero Club of Northern California

Winter 2006-2007

Sean D. Tucker awarded 2006 Crystal Eagle

Aero Club honors aerobatic legend

Air show legend Sean D. Tucker is the 24th recipient of the prestigious Crystal Eagle award, presented annually by the Aero Club of Northern California to honor those whose achievements are the very highest in aviation.

The distinctive award, a large crystal eagle mounted on a redwood base, was presented Oct. 28 at the club's annual awards dinner at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. Several hundred people, including a large contingent of Tucker's family and friends, packed the dinner venue in the main entrance to the museum at San Carlos Airport.

Before accepting the award, Tucker regaled the crowd with a spirited talk about his love for air shows, aerobatic flying and a couple of close calls he's had in a thoroughly risky profession.

Last summer, Tucker had to bail

(Continued on Page 3)



-- Northern Wings photo

Aerobatic legend Sean D. Tucker with 2006 Crystal Eagle.

Aero Club board elects Carl Honaker 2007 president

Carl Honaker, director of the Santa Clara County airport system, has been elected president of the Aero Club of Northern California for 2007.

Honaker, who was vice president, succeeds Rick Willson, a retired Intel senior manager.

Scott Yelich, a former president and vice president, was elected vice

president at the Aero Club Board meeting Jan. 16. He is a former San Jose State aviation instructor.

Retired businessman Ray Hutchings, will continue as secretary.



**Carl Honaker
2007 president**

Eric Peterson, assistant director of Santa Clara County's general aviation airport system, was re-elected Aero Club treasurer.

Honaker is a career aviator, flying for the Navy, running Moffett Field Naval Air Station and now directing Reid-Hillview, Palo Alto and South County airports.



-- Northern Wings photos

Scholarship winner Ryan Kaher with directors Scott Yelich and Sandra Clifford



Ken Pierce, with Director Sandra Clifford, speaks at dinner.

Martin Knutson to speak at Aero Club luncheon

Martin A. Knutson, former Air Force U-2 pilot and director of flight operations at Ames-Dryden Flight Research Center, will be the guest speaker at the Aero Club of Northern California Spring luncheon.

Knutson began flying in the Air Force in 1950 and later flew U-2 spy planes for the CIA's Air Division. In 1970 he joined NASA at Ames Research Center, and in 1990-1997 he headed Dryden flight operations.

Aero Club members will be mailed luncheon information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aero Club Spring Luncheon

Venue to be announced. Martin A. Knutson, former U-2 pilot and director of flight operations at Ames-Dryden Research Center, will be the guest speaker at the Spring Luncheon of the Aero Club of Northern California. Details will be mailed to Aero Club members when time, date and location have been confirmed.

43rd annual Watsonville Fly-In and Air Show

May 25-27 at Watsonville Municipal Airport. Antique aircraft and warbirds will be on display and in the air. Air shows will be flown Friday night and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Information at www.watsonvilleflyin.org.

California Capital Airshow

June 9-10 at Mather Airport, Rancho Cordova. This year's show will feature the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds jet demonstration team. Information at

www.californiacapitalairshow.com.

Aero Club scholarships awarded to three S.J. State aviation students

Three San Jose State University aviation students received Aero Club of Northern California scholarships during the club's annual Crystal Eagle Awards dinner.

Ryan Kaher was the recipient of the Robert L. Hamilton Scholarship. Born in American Samoa, Kaher grew up in Menlo Park and San Carlos. He is a graduate of Serra High School in San Mateo and completed two years at Foothill College before transferring to San Jose State in 2004.

Kaher has served as both president and vice-president of San Jose State's chapter of Alpha Eta Rho, an international aviation fraternity. He has served as an election officer with the SJSU Associated Students and on the Student Action Coalition.

Kaher works as a line service technician at San Carlos Airport where his family bases their airplane. He has logged more than 400 hours as a pilot, and will graduate with a B.S. degree in aviation operations in May. Inspired by his airline pilot father, he intends to pursue a career as a professional pilot.

Kenneth Pierce was the recipient of the James M. Nissen Scholarship. A California native, he entered San Jose State out of Redondo Union High School in 2002.

He currently works as a customer service agent with Frontier Airlines at San Francisco International Airport. Pierce also has worked as an operations agent with Airport

Terminal Services at San Jose International Airport, and has been an airport operations management intern at SFO.

Pierce will graduate from San Jose State's Aviation Department this



Andrew Wigley
...Scholarship

spring. He plans to pursue an MBA degree and a career in aviation management.

Andrew Wigley was awarded the Roy G. Hester Scholarship. Born in Scotland and raised in England,

he moved to California with his family and he earned an A.A. degree at Los Positas Community College. Wigley transferred to San Jose State in 2004.

He is an officer with Alpha Eta Rho, captain of the San Jose State precision flight team and vice-president of the San Jose State Rugby Club. He is a private pilot and will apply his scholarship funds towards his instrument rating. Wigley will graduate in December and plans to fly professionally in Australia.

Aero Club of Northern California 2007 Board of Directors

Carl Honaker – president
Scott Yelich – vice president
Eric Peterson – treasurer
Ray Hutchings – secretary
Rick Willson – past president
Jerry Bennett – director
Ron Blake – director
Janet Russell Hitt – director
Frank Kirkbride – director
Thomas E. Leonard – director
Harold Oberg – director
James Ricklefs – director
Sharon K. Sweeney – director
Frank Sweeney – director
 and newsletter editor

Northern Wings is published quarterly by the Aero Club of Northern California, an affiliate of the National Aeronautic Association.



Aero Club V.P. Carl Honaker presents Crystal Eagle to Tucker

Aero Club honors Sean D. Tucker with Crystal Eagle

(Continued from Page 1)

out of his highly modified Pitts biplane when the elevator controls jammed while practicing his low-level air show routine. Using elevator trim, he managed to get the stricken craft thousands of feet up before parachuting, knowing his favorite aircraft would crash in an open field with no injuries to anyone on the ground.

Even after leaping from the plane, Tucker, who has hundreds of parachute jumps, found himself entangled in the tail empennage and had to push off to clear the aircraft.

To those who have seen him fly, Tucker, who lives in Salinas, is a legend. The Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. made that official in 2003 when it named him one of 25 "Living Legends of Flight."

Crystal Eagle Recipients over the past 24 years

1983 – James "Jimmy" Doolittle
 1984 – Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager
 1985 – Stanley Hiller Jr.
 1986 – William "Bill" Lear
 1987 – James M. "Jim" Nissen
 1988 – Anthony W. "Tony" LeVier
 1989 – Elbert "Burt" L. Rutan
 1990 – George S. Cooper
 1991 – Allen E. Paulson
 1992 – Jeana Yeager
 1993 – Robert T. Jones
 1994 – Frank L. Christensen

Ron Reuther, Art Teeters, John Weatherly receive NAA awards at Aero Club dinner

Air museum founder **Ronald T. Reuther**, warbird restorer **Art Teeters** and agricultural aircraft manufacturer **John Weatherly** were presented National Aeronautic Association Certificate awards at the annual Aero Club of Northern California Crystal Eagle Awards Dinner for their life-long contributions to the advancement of flight.

Reuther, 77, is the founder of the Western Aerospace Museum at Oakland International Airport. He spent five decades as an Air Force, National Guard and commercial pilot, as manager, director or curator of five city zoos, and as an aviation lecturer.

Reuther, a zoologist by profession, served on the Aero Club's board of directors from 2003 to 2005. In 1980 he was one of the founders and later executive director of the Western Aerospace Museum at Oakland International Airport's North Field.

Teeters, 70, operates Cal Pacific Airmotive at Salinas Municipal Airport, where his company builds World War II-type P-51 Mustang fighter planes from scratch. These projects take three to five years to complete, at a cost of several million dollars.

Teeters, in the aircraft maintenance and restoration business since 1957, also builds highly modified racing wings for unlimited aircraft competing on the air race circuit, particularly at the Reno National Air Races.



**-- Northern Wings photos
 Aero Club Director Jim Ricklefs (right) presents NAA award to Ron Reuther**

Weatherly, 83, formed his own airplane manufacturing business in the 1950s to design and build agricultural spray aircraft in Hollister. In 1961, Weatherly aircraft production exceeded the combined production of aircraft by Cessna and Piper.

In 1991, his nephew assumed day-to-day operation of Weatherly Aircraft. The company relocated to the former McClellan Air Force Base near Sacramento, where it continues to produce cropdusters.



Aero Club director Harold Oberg gives NAA award to Art Teeters (left)



John Weatherly (left) receives NAA award from Harold Oberg

1995 – James S. Ricklefs
 1996 – Darryl G. Greenamyer
 1997 – Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson
 1998 – Donald D. Engen
 1999 – Paul H. Poberezny
 2000 – Wayne Handley
 2001 – Igor I. Sikorsky
 2002 – A. Scott Crossfield
 2003 – Clay Lacy
 2004 – Elgen Long
 2005 – Eileen Collins
 2006 – Sean D. Tucker

History Corner

Loughead Brothers spawned an aerospace giant

It wasn't very many years after the Wright Brothers' first flights that some people realized there could be more to aviation than record-breaking and technical ingenuity. You might actually make money by flying people around.

Allan Loughead, a Santa Clara University student, and his brother Malcolm had witnessed the glider experiments of SCU Professor John J. Montgomery, who developed three-axis control.

Their aviation interest was influenced by their older half-brother, Victor, an aeronautical engineer and aviation writer.

Allan became an aviation mechanic, then taught himself to fly and convinced Malcolm to join him in a venture. With their savings and a loan from a taxicab company, they raised \$3,000 to build a three-seat seaplane in San Francisco garage.

The Model G, as they called it, was radical for its time. It had a tractor-style propeller mounted on the front rather than the usual pusher prop at the back.

On June 15, 1913, they slipped the plane into San Francisco Bay.



Loughead Model G

With Allan at the controls, it skimmed across the water and into the air. Allan flew around for 15 minutes, at a mile-a-minute speed.

In 1915, the Panama-Pacific Exposition opened in San Francisco, and with it the opportunity to make some money. By carrying 600 sight-seeing passengers at \$10 each, the

Lougheads made a tidy profit.

They took their earnings and started Loughead Aircraft Manufacturing Co. in Santa Barbara in 1916. Ten years later, they changed the spelling of their name to Lockheed to match its pronunciation.

The modern Lockheed Aircraft Corp. was formed in 1932 after a reorganization and went on to build such famous planes as the P-38 Lightning, P-80 Shooting Star, the Lockheed Constellation and the F-104 Starfighter. In 1995 it merged with Martin-Marietta to form aerospace giant Lockheed Martin.

Bob Wright, NAA honoree, dies at 84

Robert Murdock Wright, longtime fixed-base operator at San Jose and Reid-Hillview airports who received a National Aeronautic Association certificate of honor at the Aero Club's 1993 Crystal Eagle dinner, died Jan. 8. He was 84.

Bob Wright served in the Marine Corps in World War II, specializing in aircraft engine maintenance. After the war, he went to A&E school, and also got his commercial and flight



Bob Wright

Wright Bros. Inc. at San Jose Municipal Airport. After a short retirement, he opened a business at Reid-Hillview.

instructor ratings. Over the the years he flew more than 9,000 hours.

In the 1950's, after a brief stint as a co-pilot for FMC, he founded

The Aero Club of Northern California

**2500 Cunningham Avenue
San Jose, California 95148
(408) 929-1060**

Chartered in 1981 as a chapter of the National Aeronautic Association



- To keep the public informed of the importance of aviation and space flight to the nation's economic progress, its security, and to international understanding.
- To support a vigorous aviation and space education program for students at all levels of learning.
- To recognize and honor those who make outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation and space flight.